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'Boom or bust' in Stones' race for play-offs

By Ron Walker

THE clock is ticking on Wealdstone's late charge to the play-offs, and they are in no doubt about the task at hand if they are to pull off a shock promotion push in the final weeks of the season.

The Stones' dream was kept alive for another week with a 2-1 win at Bath City on Saturday, lengthening their unbeaten run to some 11 games, but their upturn in form may yet prove too late for a top-five spot.

A Joe White penalty ensured the Stones picked up a 25th point since February 11- more than any side in the league bar second-placed Ebbsfleet.

That came after Danny Green's stunning curled opener from out wide had been cancelled out by Chas Hemming's scrappy equaliser when the Stones failed to clear a free-kick on the stroke of half-time.

Nine points is the gap they must bridge in the final six games of the season, and manager Gordon Bartlett has no concern in ramping up the pressure on his players.

"We are in a situation where that applies to every game," he said. "It's boom or bust time. The two home draws [against Chelmsford and Concord] made it very difficult but that doesn't mean that we're going to go in all guns blazing from now on.

"Even if we don't do it, there's a lot of positives to look back on and we have lifted a bit of doom and gloom from around the place.

"If we can pick up something like 15 points from the six games left, then it gives us an opportunity and puts us on a good level. Getting beyond 70 points means you're having a decent season."

Striker Dan Fitchett started at Twerton Park after signing on transfer deadline day from Sutton United, and may keep his place as the Stones travel to Eastbourne on Saturday.

The hosts come into the fixture having won their last home game 7-3 against Welling United.



Danny Green celebrates his spectacular opener for Wealdstone at Bath City on Saturday. Picture: ALAN PALMER

Hardy Boro beaten by title-chasers

HARROW LEAVE DESERVING MORE FROM 3-1 MIDWEEK HAVANT DEFEAT

HARROW pushed title-chasing Havant and Waterlooville all the way at West Leigh Park on Tuesday night, but the Hawks' quality eventually told and they ran out 3-1 winners

Steve Baker was without both Josh Webb and Andy Lomas through injury so Harefield Academy graduate Alexander Lafleur was drafted into the starting 11, and would go on to produce a performance beyond his years.

Harrow have been known for their poor starts so, against the league's second-placed side, it was even more of a surprise when they went ahead after five minutes when Lheureux Menga caught a defender in possession and stroked the ball home from just outside the box.

Menga came close again before Mark Charles-Smith looked to have doubled the lead - only to be denied by the linesman's flag, in what appeared a marginal call.

If Harrow were cursing their luck they were incensed further when Havant equalised, as Wes Fogden drilled in from Rory Williams' cross seven minutes after half-time.

And within 15 minutes the Hawks were flexing their muscles - and were ahead when Ed Harris headed home a cross.

Still Harrow pressed, but in the final stretch of the game former Bournemouth man James Hayter sealed victory with another header.

Canvey Island is the next destination for 14th-placed Borough this Saturday.







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